# Gunsmithing at the U.S. Musket Factory: Archeological Perspectives

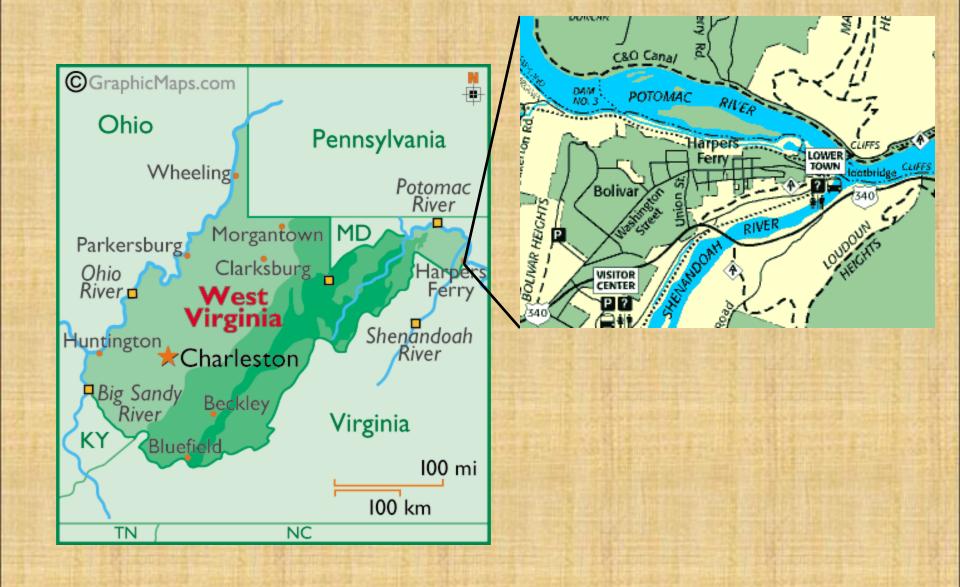
Harpers Ferry National Historical Park

**Archeology Program** 

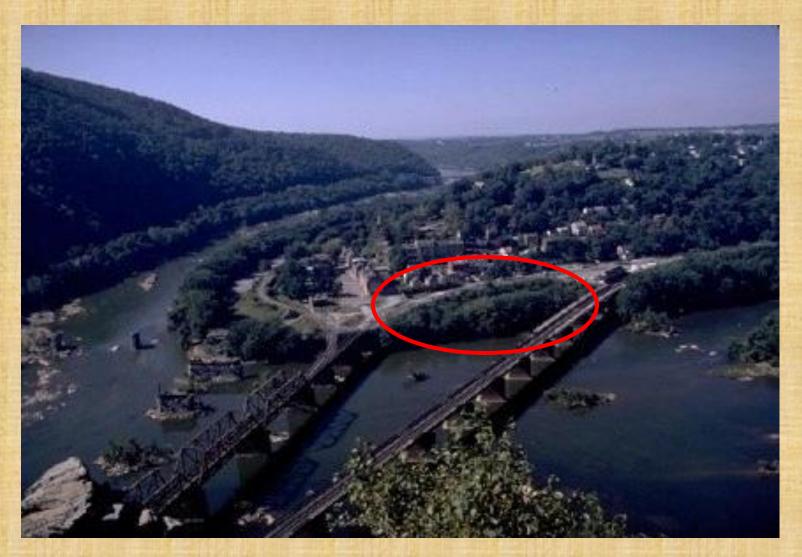




## **Harpers Ferry National Historical Park**



# **U.S. Musket Factory Site**



# **U.S. Musket Factory Site**

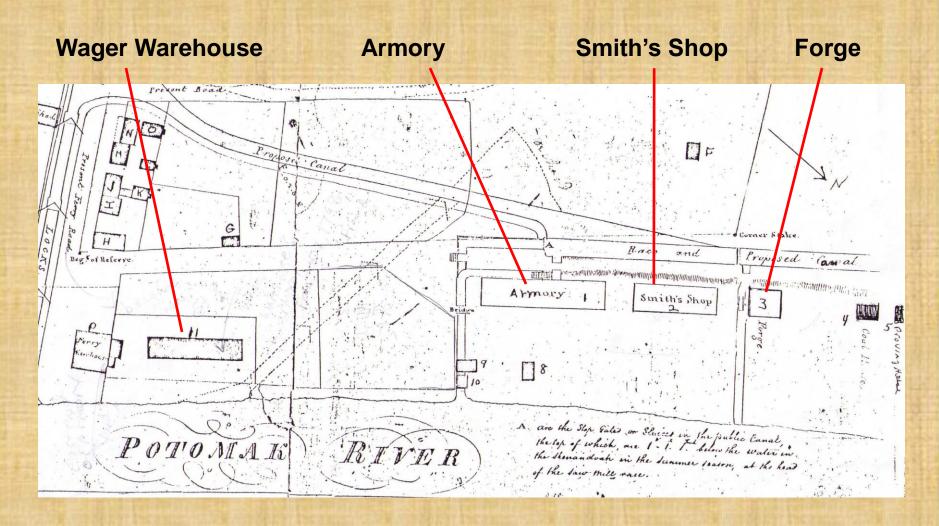


Photo by Robert E. Brzostowski

# Factory Landscape

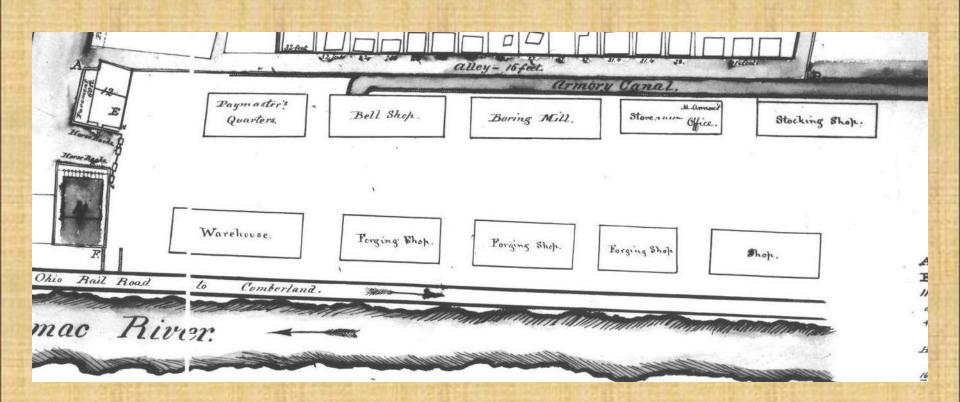


# 1803 Workshops



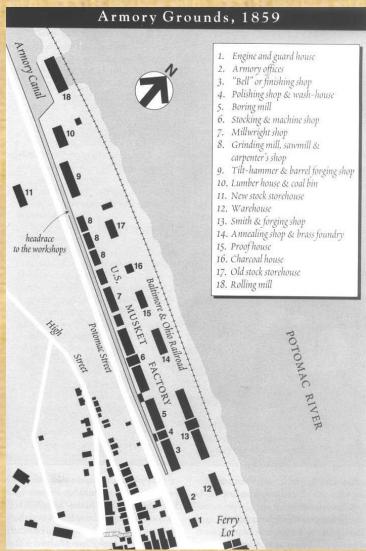


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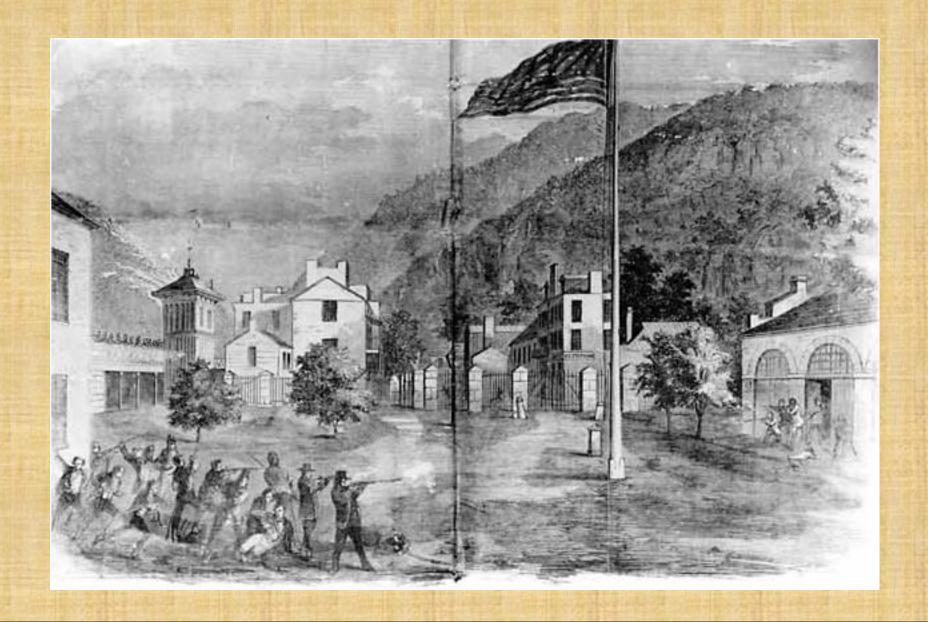




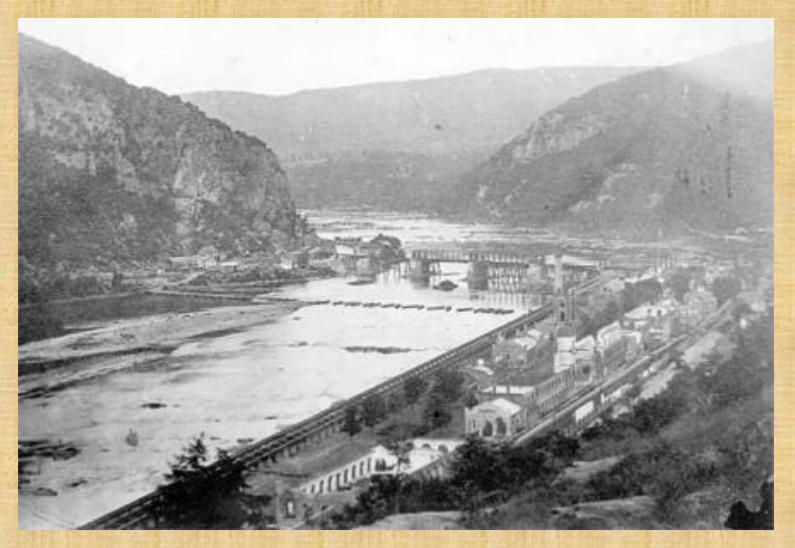


Map by David T.
Gilbert

## John Brown's Raid



# **Civil War**



# **Quartermaster Storage Depot**







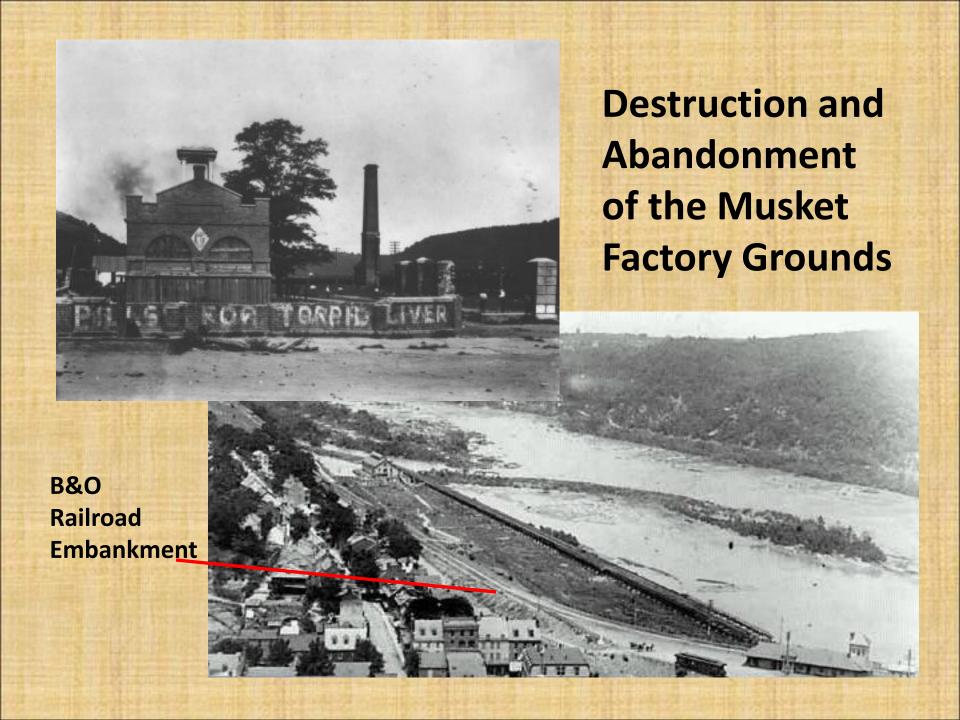
John Brown's Fort in Original Location

**Smith and Forging Shop** 

1841 Warehouse



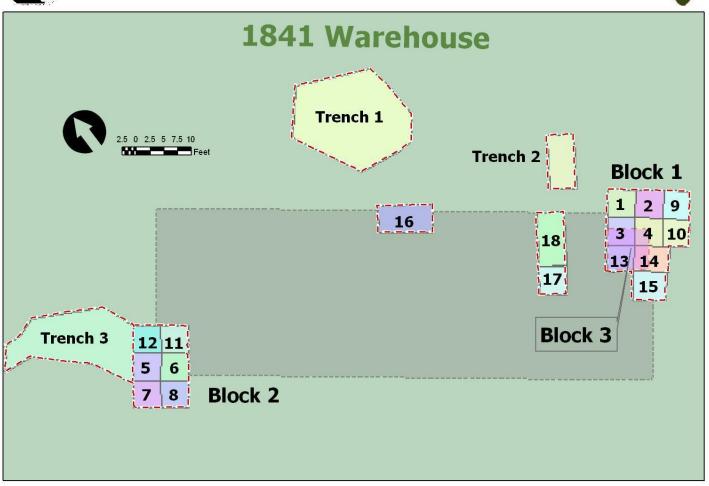
Ca. 1862 Storage Depot





#### **Unit and Block Locations**





Map by Andrew Lee





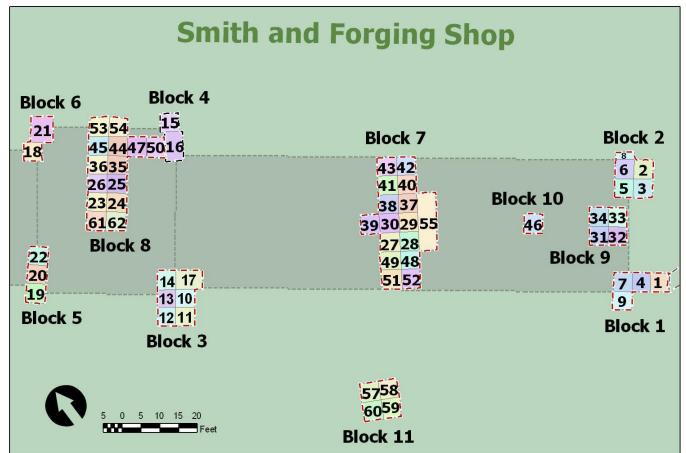


Photos by Robert E. Brzostowski

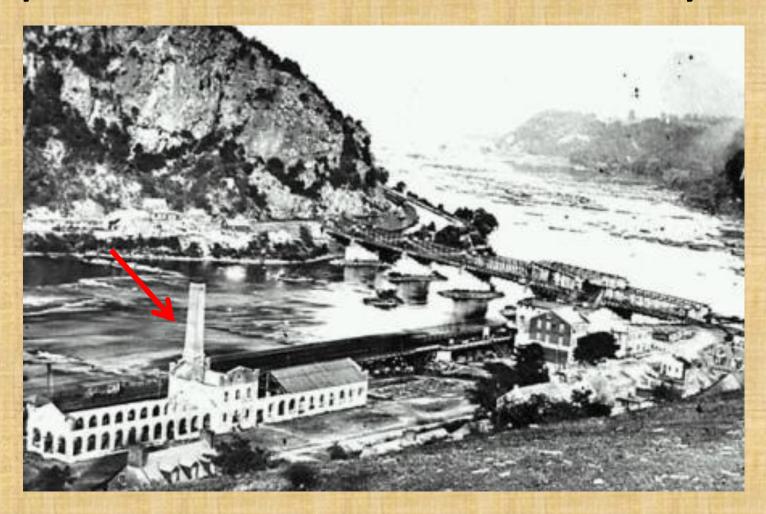


#### **Unit and Block Locations**





#### Inspector's Office in Center Block with Chimney Stack



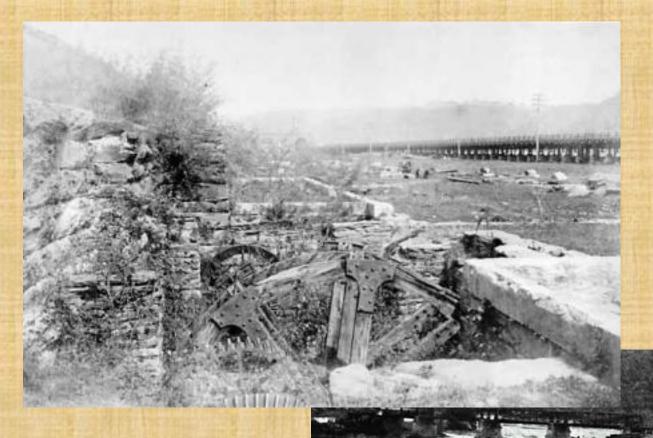
## **Smith and Forging Shop Inspector's Office**



Photo by Robert E. Brzostowski

# **Gunsmithing Trade**



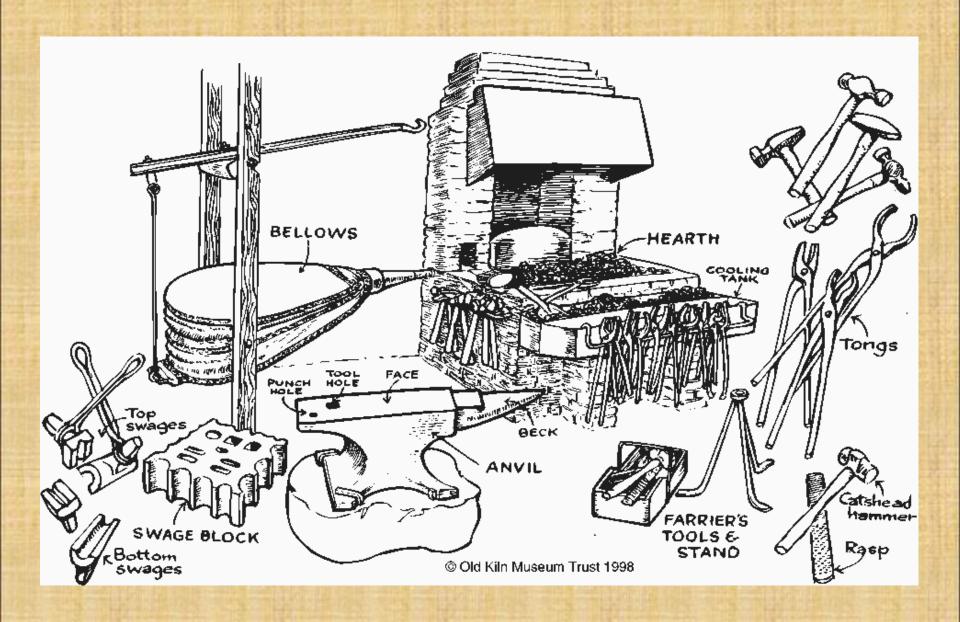


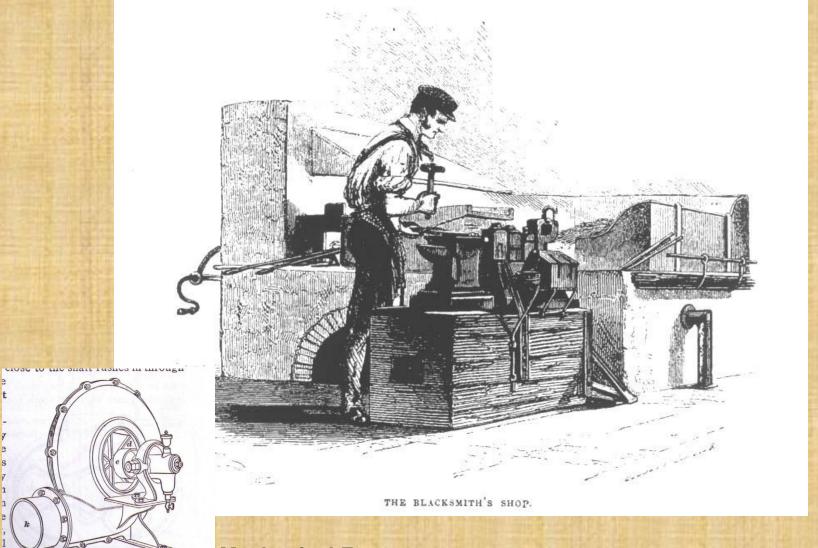
15 foot wooden water wheel

Canal with intake gates visible

# Blacksmith 1840-60







Mechanical Fan or Blower

## **Vent Feature**



Photo by Robert E. Brzostowski

# **Gunsmith Supplies**



# Machinery



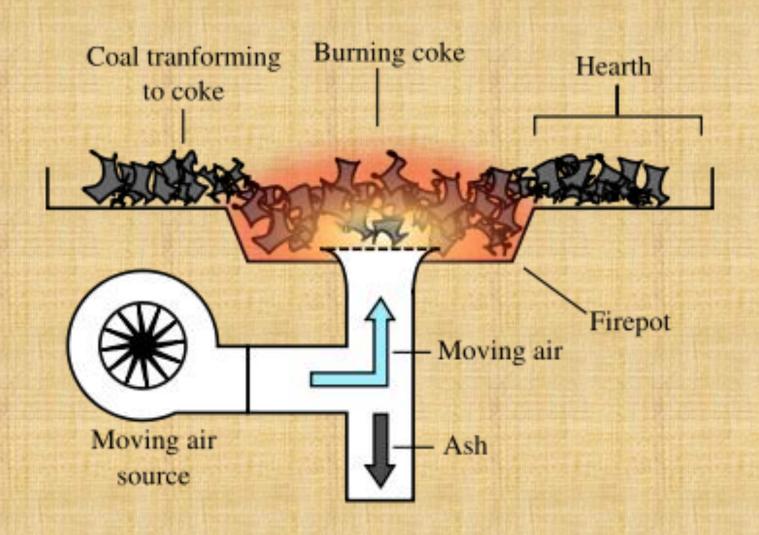
# **By-products and Fuel**







# **Anatomy of a Forge Fire**



# Crucibles





# **Forgings or Blanks**



Hardest objects to identify and in greatest need of conservation



## Lead



Some lead could be a fragment of a gun part pattern



# Files Used to Shape Metal



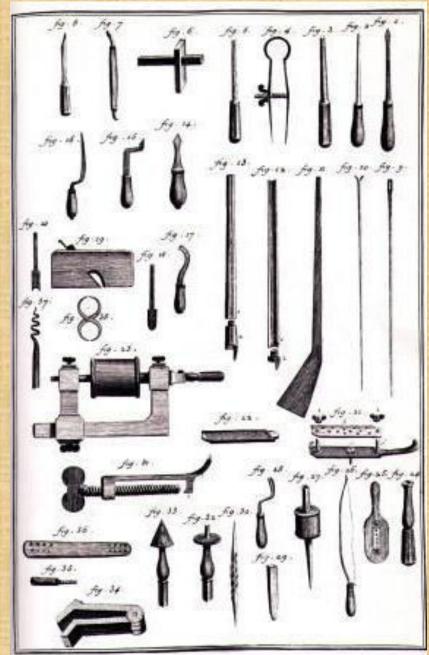




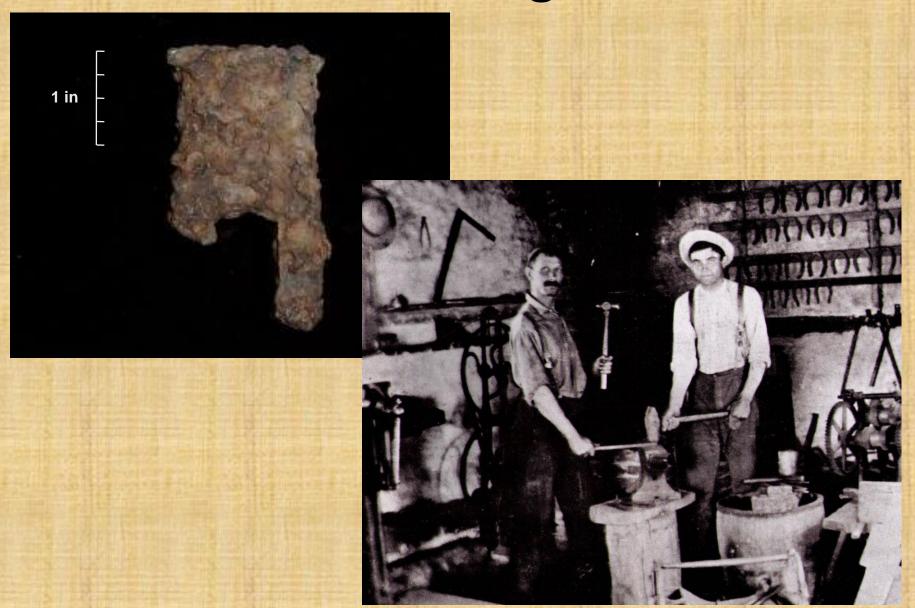
## Drill Bits or Augers and a Possible Coal Shovel







# **Hand Tool Fragment**



#### Modified File, Possible Cone Wrench or Gauge



Gauges used to check the size of standard gun parts



## **Bellows Tacks**



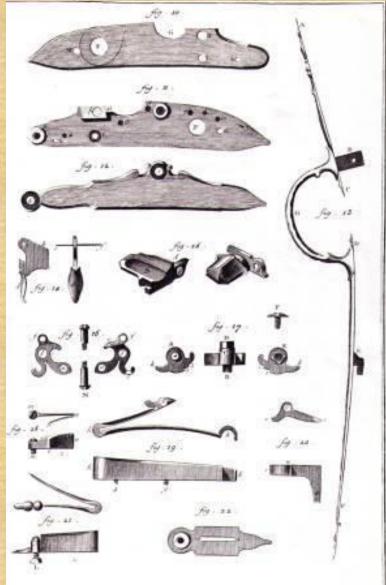
Usually hand made by the smith





## **Gun Parts**





## **Gun Parts**

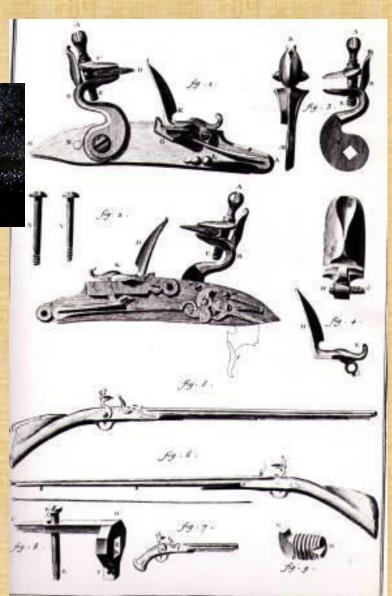
**Jaw Screw** 



**Top View** 



**Butt Plate** 



# **Rear Sight Cache**



## **Farriers of the Civil War**



# Early 19th-Century Domestics







- -Possible Jack-in-the-box lace bobbin
- -Burned corn
- -Flat button, lead button and probable cuff link